Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

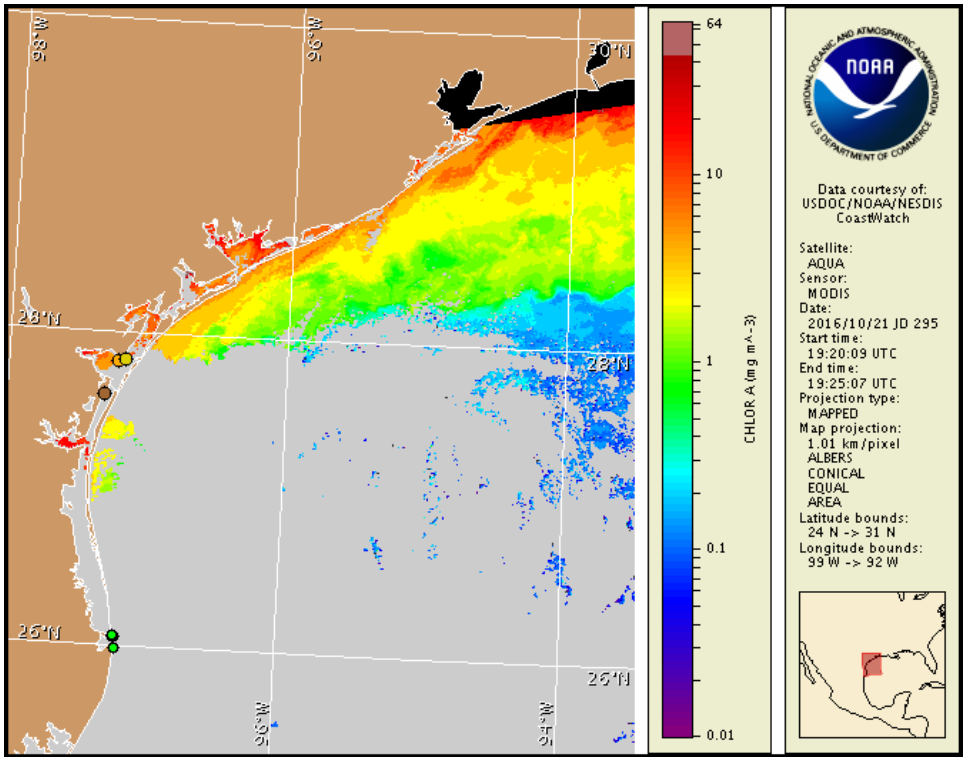
Monday, 24 October 2016

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Thursday, October 20, 2016



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from October 14 to 21: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_publication/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml

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To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

Karenia brevis (commonly known as Texas red tide) ranges from not present to high concentrations along the Texas coast in the Aransas Pass to Padre Island National Seashore regions. *K. brevis* concentrations are patchy in nature and levels of respiratory irritation will vary locally based upon nearby bloom concentrations, ocean currents, and wind speed and direction. The highest level of potential respiratory irritation forecast for Monday, October 24 through Thursday, October 27 is listed below:

County Region: Forecast (Duration)
Bay region-Corpus Christi Bay: Moderate (M-Th)
Bay region-Upper Laguna Madre: Low (M-Th)
Aransas Pass to PINS: Moderate (M-Th)
Padre Island National Seashore region: Moderate (M-Th)
All Other Texas Regions: None expected (M-Th)

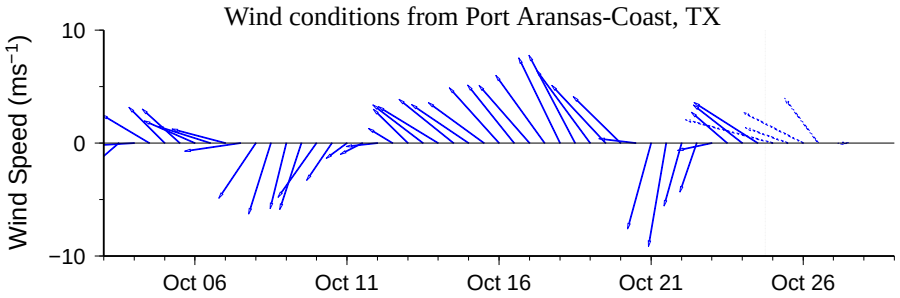
Check http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations. Over the past few days, reports of dead fish, discolored water, and respiratory irritation have been received in the Corpus Christi Bay region. Reports of discolored water and dead fish have been received from the Upper Laguna Madre.

Analysis

Karenia brevis concentrations range between 'not present' and 'high' along the Texas coast from Aransas Pass to the Padre Island National Seashore, with the highest concentrations in Corpus Christi Bay (TPWD; 10/17-10/24). No new samples have been received from the southern area of Corpus Christi Bay since 'high' concentrations of *K. brevis* were identified on 10/12, but respiratory irritation, discolored water, and dead fish were reported last week (TPWD; 10/21). In the Aransas Pass to Padre Island National Seashore (PINS) region, sampling from the Texas A&M University's Imaging FlowCytobot, located on the Port Aransas ship channel, indicates *K. brevis* concentrations have decreased to 'low a' from 'low b' (TAMU; 10/20-10/24). No new samples in the Upper Laguna Madre region have been received since up to 'low a' *K. brevis* concentrations were identified from 10/17-19, but discolored water and dead fish were reported last week (TPWD; 10/21). Detailed sample information and a summary of impacts can be obtained through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml. For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Recent ensemble imagery (MODIS Aqua, 10/21) is obscured by clouds in the bloom region from Aransas Pass to the Rio Grande, preventing analysis. Patches of elevated to very high chlorophyll (2 to >20 μg/L) with the optical characteristics of *K. brevis* are offshore the Texas coast from Sabine Pass to Matagorda Island. Elevated chlorophyll in this region is not necessarily indicative of the presence of *K. brevis* and may be due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast.

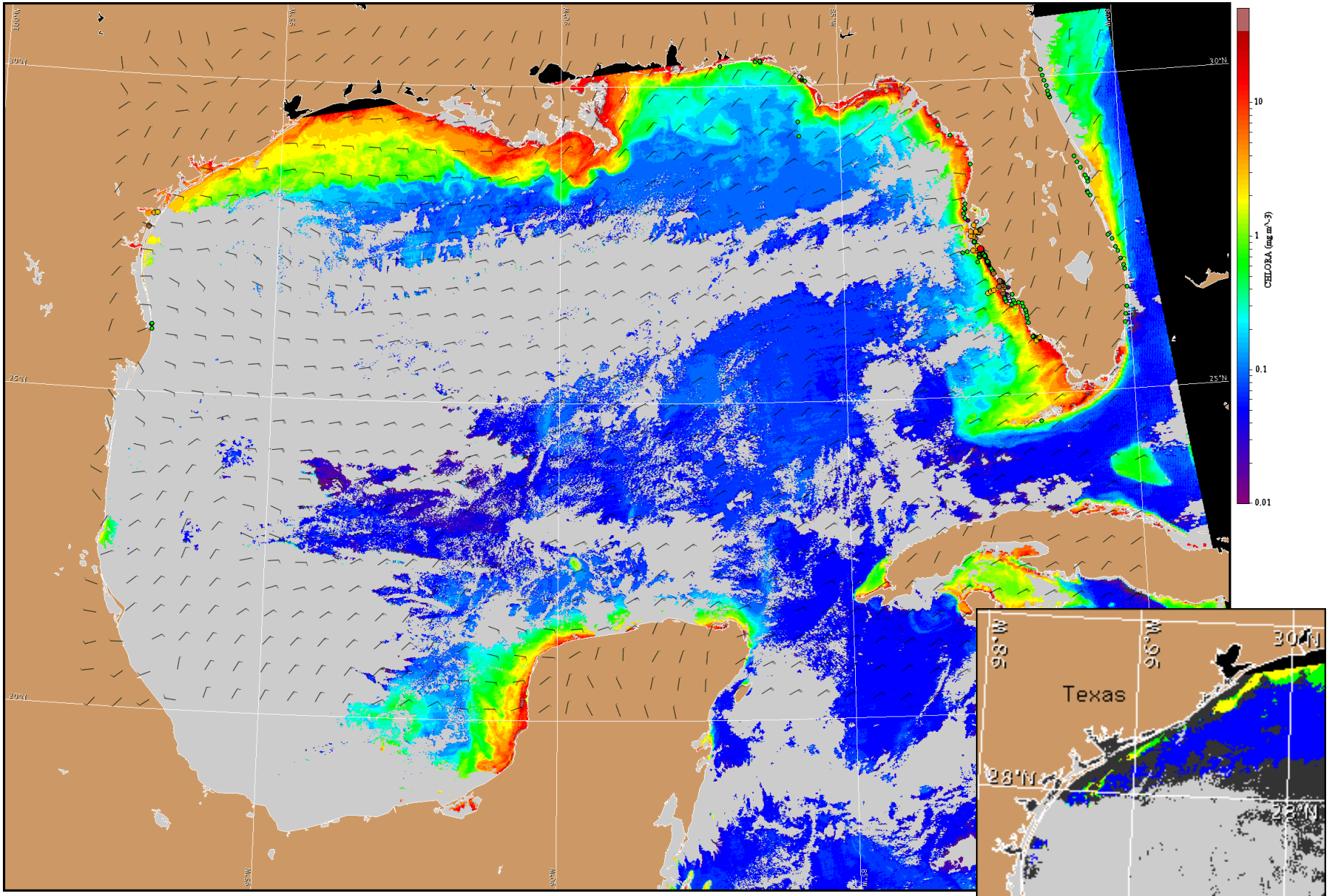
Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a maximum transport of 110 km south from the Port Aransas region and 110 km south from PINS Mile Marker #15 from October 21-27. - Davis, Kavanaugh



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Baffin Bay to Port Aransas: Southeast to east winds (5-15kn, 3-8m/s) today through Wednesday night. Northeast winds (10kn, 5m/s) Thursday becoming east winds (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) Thursday night.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 25, 2016 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from October 14 to 21: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas with *K. brevis* optical characteristics shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).